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ENG 5008-001: Colonial American Literature

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English 5008/001

Colonial American Literature: Reading Colonial Slavery

Fall, 2015

P.A. Boswell

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Office hours: T, R 2-3:30 pm and by appointment

TEXTS

Baym, ed. *Norton Anthology of American Literature* Vol. A, 8th ed.

Gates, ed. *Norton Anthology of African American Literature* Vol I, 3rd ed.

Morrison. *Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination*
_____. *A Mercy*

Twain. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

REQUIREMENTS

Serious, close reading for each seminar session

Willingness to contribute to class discussion regularly

One short (5 pages) bibliographic essay

One research paper (10-20 pages) due during Finals Week

AND FINALLY...

We will read and discuss the primary texts during class time, but I expect you to familiarize yourselves with secondary sources—books, articles, etc—as we move along through the term. I will always be happy to suggest titles, books, or ideas with you. I also expect you to do your own research in the library as well.

Written English of the 17th and 18th centuries shares more in common with Shakespeare's English than with our own 21st century American English, and these texts—some in translation—will challenge us with a significant language barrier from time to time. In other words, this is often difficult reading. If you let me know, we can slow down, go back, or change direction. I will always be happy to help you along the way.

I hope you will think of this seminar as an ongoing discussion among yourselves, me, and the texts we read. We are a community of scholars for the term, so the more questions we ask (and there are no inappropriate questions here), the more rewarding this material will be for all of us.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Dishonesty of any sort in this course can result in a failing grade in the course.

DISABILITY INFORMATION

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodation, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services at 581-6583 as soon as possible.

English 5008/001: Fall, 2015

Tentative Reading Schedule

Aug	25	Introduction to 5008
Sept	01	Introduction to Colonial Slavery
Sept	08	Morrison, <i>Playing in the Dark</i>
Sept	15	<i>Norton Anthology A</i> , 1-206 <i>passim</i>
Sept	15	<i>Norton Anthology of African American Lit</i> , 1, 75-112, 137-159
Sept	22	Morrison, <i>A Mercy</i>
Sept	29	Jacobs, <i>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</i> (AALit 221-261)
Oct	06	Morrison & Jacobs
Oct	13	NO CLASS
Oct	20	Franklin, (<i>Norton Anthology</i> 455-542)
Oct	27	Olaudah Equiano, <i>The Interesting Narrative of the Life</i> (AALit, 112-137)
Nov	03	Twain, <i>Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>
Nov	10	Franklin, Equiano, Twain, and Morrison <i>Playing in the Dark</i> , redux
Nov	17	Jefferson, de Crèvecoeur, Woolman (<i>Norton Anthology</i> , <i>passim</i>)
Nov	24	NO CLASS
Dec	01	Informal Presentations of Works in Progress
Dec	08	TBA